

Lubec Economic Development / Broadband Working Group

March 8, 2023 Meeting Notes

Attending: Denise Dalton-Rule, Rene Gray, Rachel Rubeor, Martha Howell, Nancy Harrison, Ben Levek, and Genevieve Bristol (by Zoom)

Economic Development

I. Potential AARP Grant Funded Project

- Discussion about a possible Capacity Building Microgrant, \$2,500 maximum, to encourage gardening and outdoor activity for persons age 50+.
- Proposed project: Install 2 park benches at Stockford Park. Benches being considered are large, sturdy and weather resistant. Other possible expenses may be flower/vegetable plantings, concrete, refreshments for volunteers who help with bench installation and plantings.
- If funds are awarded, Lubec project would be required to attend 2 (either in person or Zoom) presentations by consultants. AARP offers a downloadable Toolkit for a walking audit.
- Proposal is for Town to submit application and to seek to involve Garden Club and APPLE.
- Nancy has drafted application and is prepared to submit.

Broadband Project

I. Notes from 2/22/23 meeting were accepted.

II. Financial

- Grant funds from Island Institute (Public Relations/Communications \$12,000 and Planning \$3,000) may be used by Town if future broadband funding applications are submitted. Status about remaining funds from Maine Connectivity Authority (MCA) planning grant (\$1,419) is not known until we have dialogue with MCA staff.

III. MCA News

- Other than notice of no funding for broadband project, Town has not received any response from MCA for more details on how application ranked or was evaluated.

- MCA has indicated intent for commitment for transparency about their criteria for project funding approval, especially as it pertains to “underserved” areas.
- There was discussion encouraging interested persons to respond to Statewide Broadband Survey which can be accessed at the MCA website or through Sunrise County Economic Council (SCEC). Members of Lubec Economic Development Committee and Broadband Working Group can provide links to the survey for interested persons or hitting the below link.

The Maine Connectivity Authority is developing a statewide Broadband Action Plan for Maine. You can read more and participate in the survey by clicking [HERE](#).

IV. Miscellaneous

- Martha reminded attendees of opportunity to participate in Maine Broadband Coalition programming:
 - A. “Let’s Talk Broadband”, Fridays, 11 am. To access link for a meeting, check MBC website calendar at <https://www.mainebroadbandcoalition.org>
 - B. Maine Legislative Broadband Caucus. To see schedule and access link to future meetings: <https://www.mainebroadbandcoalition.org/caucus-corner>
 - C. Municipal Broadband and Digital Equity Webinar (3/13, 10-11:30 am, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82858050121>)
- There was discussion about having a presence at the LCOC Senior Brunch, 3/11 to discuss digital equity and encourage people to do MCA Survey.
- MCA has indicated interest in having statewide focus groups in the Spring and Lubec’s interest to host.
- Denise and Rene will draft an e-mail to Lubec residents who signed up for early broadband subscription informing them of MCA decision to not fund Lubec proposal and update on future plans.

- Martha has agreed to contact Mark Oullette/Axiom to keep him engaged in Lubec's interest and intent to apply for the next round of MCA funding.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday April 5, 2023 3PM